

**MINUTES OF THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, June 18, 2003 – 9:00 a.m. – Rooms 414/416 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Leonard M. Blackham, Senate Chair
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart, House Chair
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. John L. Valentine
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Ralph Becker
Rep. Chad E. Bennion
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Ty McCartney
Rep. Michael E. Noel

Rep. Gordon E. Snow
Rep. Michael R. Styler
Rep. David Ure

Members Absent:

Rep. Greg J. Curtis
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow

Staff Present:

Mr. Richard North, Policy Analyst
Mr. Thad LeVar, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Jennifer Markham, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Jennifer Markham, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Blackham called the meeting to order at 9:16 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Ure moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Dmitrich, Rep. Becker, and Rep. Urquhart absent for the vote.

2. Promotion of Renewable Energy Development

Chair Blackham informed the Committee that he could not provide a report at this time because this item was postponed to the next Energy Policy Task Force meeting.

**3. Rates and Access for Telecommunication Facilities in the Interstate Rights-of-Way:
Comparative Data**

Mr. LeVar distributed and discussed "Compensation Paid to States by Telecommunications Providers for the Value of the Interstate Highway Rights-of-Way: Comparative Data."

Mr. Art Brothers, Beehive Telephone, suggested that access fees are already covered by the property taxes paid by telecommunications providers.

**4. Rights-of-Way Access and Rates Charged by Local Government to Telecommunications
Providers**

Mr. Randy Hunter, Attorney General's Office, provided legal background on access rates paid by telecommunications providers to local governments for rights-of-way.

Mr. Roger Tew, Utah League of Cities and Towns, distributed and discussed “Municipal Telco Taxes and Fees: A Story of Successful Cooperation” and “Telecommunication Fees and Charges of Selected Cities (Pre S.B. 23 Implementation).”

MOTION: Rep. Ure moved to place this item on next month’s agenda for further discussion. Rep. Ure withdrew his motion.

Mr. Roger Ball, CCS (Committee of Consumer Services), discussed CCS’s review of the impact of access charges on rates.

MOTION: Rep. Ure moved to place this item on July’s agenda for further discussion. The motion passed unanimously, with Sen. Dmitrich, Rep. Becker, and Rep. Urquhart absent for the vote.

5. Public Service Commission (PSC): Membership and Issues

Mr. Ric Campbell, Mr. Ted Boyer, and Ms. Connie White, PSC, summarized their professional backgrounds and discussed key issues facing the PSC.

6. Natural Gas Rate Increase (Pass Through) Proposal

Mr. North distributed “*US Faces Critical Gas Shortage Over Summer*” by Shelia McNulty in Houston, Published June 8, 2003.”

Mr. Campbell explained the approval process for rate increase requests.

Mr. Ruland Gill and Mr. Barrie McKay, Questar, distributed and discussed “Today’s Natural Gas Market and Why Is My Bill Fluctuating?,” “Natural Gas Supply Short Term and Long Term,” and “From the Ground Up America’s Natural Gas Supply Challenge.”

7. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Knudson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Becker and Rep. Bennion absent for the vote. Chair Blackham adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.